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MUNICIPAL REFERENCE LIBRARIES.

The committee of the National Municipal League, appointed in 1909, of which Mr. Horace E. Flack is chairman, to report upon the subject of municipal reference libraries, gave their report at the Buffalo conference. After reviewing the subject in a general way the committee came to these conclusions:

1. That municipal reference libraries should be established in all large cities.
2. That as a general rule such libraries should be under the control of the public library.
3. That such libraries should be located in the city hall where feasible.
4. That the qualifications for the head of such a library should be a liberal education, with special training in political science, economics, municipal government, and methods of organization and adminis-

tration, and he should be selected for merit alone.

5. That the head of the municipal reference library be selected by that method which, in the particular city, will, under the local conditions there prevailing, tend most completely to eliminate political considerations. In some cities, the most satisfactory results may be obtained by lodging the appointing power with the public librarian or library trustees. In other cities, conditions may make it advisable to have appointment made by a select, impartial and non-political board.

6. That the municipal reference library be made the agency for the exchange of municipal documents.

7. The functions of the library should not be restricted to any particular phase of work so long as that work relates only to the collecting, collating, compiling and disseminating of data or information. It will also be one of the functions of the library to aid in the drafting of ordinances. Of course, the principal work will be concerning municipal questions, and special efforts should be made to secure such information for the city officials who are responsible for the administration of the city's affairs; but to be of the greatest value such a library must undertake to furnish information to the public generally. Such a bureau will be used extensively by the press and this is one of the best ways of reaching the public. Social, civic and improvement associations will also frequently have occasion to use such a library, and its value to a city cannot easily be overestimated. If the bureau be under the control of the public library, it would seem advisable to issue a bulletin containing interesting comments for newspaper purposes and showing how the reference library can be of assistance to officials and to the public, as each matter of general interest gets the center of the stage.

It would also be expected that the reference libraries tear up and file all helpful things together—all the information possible on each particular subject—so that when one wants to know what has been said, for example, about the health department, police department, etc., it will not be necessary to go over fifty or one hundred volumes.

The head of the library should, by all means, maintain a neutral attitude on all questions; for the very moment he begins to advocate or oppose any measure or prop-

osition, he will begin to make less effective the work of his department. He must not make it possible for anyone to say that he is collecting information because of any personal bias of his own. His only interest should be to secure the data and let the facts speak for themselves.

In reaching these conclusions, we were aware that conditions existed in some cities where better results might be had by the establishment of separate and distinct bureaus, but where this is done we cannot urge too strongly that the department be placed under the control of a non-political board. If such libraries become subject to political patronage, they are likely to become not only useless, but really harmful. Unless they can be inaugurated under conditions which will keep them out of politics, it would be better not to have them.

In presenting the above recommendations, the committee realizes that such libraries of themselves will not bring about an immediate reform in city government, nor will efficiency in municipal administration follow as a necessary result of their establishment. But it is respectfully submitted that such a library would be a valuable instrument or agency in the efforts to make our municipal governments more business-like and more efficient. The library will not of itself do away with the abuses which exist, but it will furnish the means whereby such abuses can be lessened, for it will be able to supply the data and the knowledge which are essential to all good government.

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CIVIC SECRETARIES' CONFERENCE.*

At the suggestion of Mr. Clinton Rogers Woodruff, secretary of the National Municipal League, a meeting of secretaries of civic associations in America, was called to be held in connection with the Buffalo conference on good city government. As this is the first time that the members of this comparatively new profession have been called together, the invitation suggested an informal discussion on three points:

1. The purpose of local civic associations. How does it differ from that of a business organization, such as a chamber of commerce, a charity organization society, the city government? Should one civic organization seek to arouse the interest of citizens in all phases of community welfare, or should there be a separate organization for each of those matters which are of the greatest importance, such as housing, government, civic adornment, sanitation, etc?

2. The basis of membership in local civic associations. Should they be branches of other organizations, such as a chamber of commerce, and consequently draw their membership entirely from the latter, or should they be independent? Should the effort be made to secure members from all classes of society.

3. The methods to be used by local civic associations. Should these be simply educational? Should the association as an association take an active part in securing the election of officials in sympathy with its views?

Twenty associations were represented by their secretaries at the meeting, and so evident was the value of the conference that a permanent organization was formed under the title, "Civic Secretaries Committee of the National Municipal League," for the purpose of "considering questions which arise in connection with the organization and methods of work of civic associations." The officers elected were: Chairman, Elliot H. Goodwin, New York; secretary, John Ihlder, 105 E. Twenty-second street, New York City; treasurer, Addison L. Winship, Boston City Club.

Each member of the committee undertakes, first, to put all the other members on his mailing list to receive the publications issued by his organization; second, to make his office, if his organization is local in character, an information bureau regarding all matters of civic interest in his city; if national, regarding all matters falling within its province.

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PUBLIC AFFAIRS—REFERENCES.

Ballot Laws. American ballot laws 1888-1910 by Arthur Ludington. Contains a chronological survey; classification; digest of constitutional and statutory provisions on voting machines; general references to statutes, and a bibliography of ten pages. Published by the state library, Albany, N. Y., *Legislative Bulletin* No. 40, 1911, 220 pages. This is one of the most useful publications for legislative purposes. The bibliography is of special value.

Bank Deposits—Guarantee. The statute of Oklahoma passed in 1907 providing for guarantee of bank deposits was upheld by the U. S. Supreme court, January 3, 1911, in *Noble State Bank vs. Haskell*, 31 S. C. R. 186. The Nebraska and Kansas laws of 1909 were upheld on the same date in separate cases 31 S. C. R. 189.

Banks, Private. The law of New York, ch. 348, laws of 1910, requires a license for private bankers engaged in receiving money for safe keeping or to be forwarded to other countries. This was designed to protect the immigrants. The law was upheld in all courts of the United States Supreme Court, January 3, 1910, in the cases of *Engle vs. O'Malley*, 31 S. C. R. 190.

Billboards. Outdoor advertisements in other countries. (In report of signs and billboards committee of Civic League of St. Louis, 1910.)

Bills of Lading. Hearings on H. R. 25,335, bills of lading, June, 1910, before house subcommittee on ways and means.

Blind and Deaf. The second report of social service work of the Massachusetts charitable eye and ear infirmary, is a valuable summary of a unique activity. This hospital was established in 1827. Boston, January 1, 1910, 36 pages.

Blindness. The Massachusetts commission for the blind has issued several valuable pamphlets on the prevention of blindness. This commission was organized to provide a bureau of information and industrial aid to the blind and in general to promote methods for their assistance. Walter B. Snow, of Watertown, Mass., is secretary of the commission.

Bucket Shop. The Missouri law regulating bucket shops which had been upheld by the State Supreme Court was upheld by the United States Supreme Court, in *Brodnax vs. State of Missouri*, 31 S. C. R. 238, decided January 9, 1911.

Charities. The board of State charities has issued a digest of all laws of this State relating to charities. Harrisburg, 1910, 148 pages.

Charter—St. Louis. The Civic League of St. Louis recently issued a pamphlet entitled "An Abstract of the Provisions of the

Old and New Charters of St. Louis, with Explanatory Comments." 1911, 40 pages. This is issued for the guidance of voters in voting upon the new charter.

City Plan. The improvement of Ft. Wayne, Indiana, is one of the latest reports on city planning. Prepared by Chas. Milford Robinson. Issued by the Fort Wayne Civic Improvement Association, 1910, 123 pages.

Cold Storage. The hearings before the United States senate committee on manufactures on foods held in cold storage have been published. Vol. 1 contains testimony, 267 pages.

Commerce. The Carmack amendment to the interstate commerce law putting liability for damages to freight upon the initial carrier was upheld in United States Supreme Court, January 3, 1911, 31 S. C. R. 164.

Commission Government. A reprint from the proceedings of the National Municipal League, 1910, has been made of a paper on the comparison of the forms of commission government in cities by E. S. Bradford of the United States Bureau of Corporations, Washington, 1910, 37 pages. A table added gives a list of cities, their population in 1910 and facts of organization.

Commission Government. The extension division of the University of Wisconsin issued in September, 1910, a bulletin setting forth an outline for debating work of commission government, Madison, 1910, 18 pages.

Education—Agriculture. Agricultural schools in foreign countries. (In United States daily consular and trade reports, No. 36, page 577-80, February 13, 1911.)

Education—Agriculture. The board of education of Massachusetts was directed in 1910 to report on a proposed system of agricultural schools in the state and particularly on the proposal to establish a farm school in the city of Worcester. The report has been issued and is of great value. Boston, 1911, 104 pages.

Employers' Liability. The abrogation of the fellow servant rule by the Mississippi law was upheld by the United States Supreme Court, in *Mobile, J. & K. C. R. Co. vs. Turnipseed*, 31 S. C. R. 136, decided December 19, 1910.

Education—Industrial. The proceedings of the Boston meeting of the National Society for the Promotion of Industrial Education, November, 1910, has been published in two parts as bulletin No. 13. Part 1 deals with trade education for girls. Part 2 with apprenticeship and corporation schools.

Education—Legislation. The United States Bureau of Education has inaugurated a legislation service on educational subjects by furnishing multigraphed bulletins on pending legislation in the different states. There

bulletins are issued frequently from reports received from correspondents in the states.

Employers' Liability. The report of the Ohio commission appointed to report on this and related subjects, consists of two volumes. Part 1 consists of the general report to the legislature; investigator's report; conclusions of the commission; employers compensation code, legal questions involved; minority report and bill, 404 pages. Part 2 consists of the minutes of the hearings held and the testimony given, 443 pages.

Fish and Game. Fish and game laws of New England. (In Advance New England, October, 1910.)

Garbage. Report of committee on systems of garbage disposal, 1908. Municipal record of San Francisco, v. 1, No. 3, pages 1-2.

Grade Crossings. The expense of constructing a railway bridge over a highway made necessary cutting a street through the embankment may be put entirely upon the railway company. *C. I. & W. R. Co vs. Connersville*, 31 S. C. R. 93. Decided by United States Supreme Court, November 28, 1910.

Grain—Inspection and Grading. Hearings on grain inspection and grading bills, May, 1910, before house committee on interstate and foreign commerce.

Health—Occupational Diseases. The state commission in Illinois, appointed in 1907 and extended in 1909, has made a report to the Governor which is exhaustive on this subject. It contains a review of the health hazards in the principal unhealthy trades with opinions of medical expert. A bill is also submitted. The appendix gives a summary of the laws of the states and European countries in force of various phases of health promotion. Springfield, 1911.

Highways. The road red book, bulletin No 1, of the New York highway commission, bureau of town highways, contains suggestions and plans concerning construction and maintenance of town highways and bridges. Contains the text of the highway law and motor vehicle law as amended in 1909 and 1910. Albany, 1910, 339 pages.

Humane Treatment of Animals. Man's duty to the animals is the title of a pamphlet of 72 pages on humane subjects. Gives laws of Indiana and ordinances of the city of Evansville. Published by A. Melzer, manager of the Animal Protective Association of Evansville, Ind. May be had on request.

Inheritance Tax. Digest of inheritance tax laws of the different states. (In Congressional Record for Tuesday, December 13, page 251.)

Insurance, Fraternal. The national convention of insurance commissioners, recommended a bill regulating fraternal insurance.

The bill was indorsed by the associated fraternities of America and by the National Fraternal Congress. 23 pages.

Insurance, Fire. The special commission appointed in Illinois in 1909 to report on the fire insurance laws, rates and classification, has reported its conclusions in a very valuable report with bills to carry out the recommendations. Springfield, 1911. 77 pages.

Insurance, Fire. Town and county co-operative associations. Summary of laws in the various state or town and county co-operative fire insurance associations. (In New York State Insurance Department Report on town and county co-operative fire associations December, 1909.)

Insurance, Life. The proceedings of the Washington conference of life insurance presidents, held in January, 1910, has been published in a volume of 127 pages. Robert Lynn Cox, general manager, New York City. These proceedings deal especially with uniform laws, state laws and rulings and health problems.

Labor Classes—Dwellings. Report of committee of the Albany, New York Chamber of Commerce, appointed to investigate the question of moderate cost houses September, 1910.

Legislatures—Second Chamber. Returns showing for each legislature in the self-governing dominions the composition of the second chamber and the method of nomination or election and other facts with regard to financial legislation. Great Britain Parliamentary Paper No. 81, 1910.

Liquor—Sale to Minors. Hearings on H. R. 23,635, sale of liquors to minors, May, 1910, before house sub-committee on investigation of food, storage and prices.

Lotteries. Gift enterprises of any kind are prohibited by a law of the District of Columbia. This law was upheld in *re Gregory*, January 3, 1911, 31 S. C. R. 143.

Lumber Industry. Summary of the report of the Commissioner of Corporations of the United States on the lumber industry. Part 1, on standing timber, Washington, 1911, 38 pages.

Mining—Coal. Bulletin No. 90, United States Bureau of Labor, September, 1910, contains a study of fatal accidents in coal mining by Frederick L. Hoffman, 237 pages. A bibliography of three pages is given.

Osteopathy. Hearings on H. R. 23,431, to regulate the practice of osteopathy, before house sub-committee on ways and means.

Paint. Hearings on H. R. 21,901, adulterated white lead and mixed paint, before house committee on interstate and foreign commerce.

Pawnshops. Pawn broking in Foreign Countries. (In United States daily consular and trade reports, No. 16, page 241-5. January 20, 1911.)

Pensions—Teachers. Senate Doc. 823, Sixty-first congress, third session is a summary of teachers' pension laws and systems of the United States and Europe. Valuable Germany are given. Washington, 1911, 53 statistics of the working of the system in pages.

Peonage. Alabama law (Laws of 1907, page 146), making the refusal to perform labor for which compensation has been paid, prima facie evidence of intent to defraud, was declared unconstitutional, in *Bailey vs. Alabama*, January 3, 1911, 31 S. C. R. 146.

Platforms, Political. Bulletin No. 2 of the Governor's conference, 172 West Eighty-first street, New York. Gives a digest of party platforms of 1910 condensed under subjects. 48 pages. 1911.

Public Utilities. A comparison of the principal features of the laws of Wisconsin, New York, New Jersey, Maryland and Massachusetts is given in a bulletin of the Ohio Legislative Reference Department, prepared by John A. Lapp, of Indianapolis. Bulletin contains a short bibliography. Columbus, 1911, 18 pages. The department also issued in a bulletin a similar comparison of the Wisconsin and New York laws prepared by Allen R. Foote in 1907.

Railroads—Foreign. Reports to the board of trade on railways in Belgium, France and Italy. Parliamentary paper 1910. 282 pages. 2s 4d. This report is a part of an investigation by the board of trade of continental railway systems. The report on the German railways and on the railroads of Austria and Hungary have been previously issued. These reports are exhaustive, covering history, regulation, tariffs, conditions and service.

Railroads—Physical Valuation. A comparative statement of physical valuation and capitalization. Prepared by the bureau of railway economics. Washington, D. C., 1911. 14 pages.

Reciprocity—Canadian. The special message of President Taft January 26 1911, contains a comparative statement of the tariffs of Canada and the United States and the proposed reciprocal schedule in parallel columns.

Reciprocal Demurrage. Order of the railroad commission of Arkansas requiring companies to furnish cars on demand to shippers declared unconstitutional by the U. S. supreme court in *St. L. & S. W. R. R. Co. vs. State of Arkansas*, 30 S. C. R. 476. Court holds that to comply with the order would prevent interchange with connecting carriers under rules of the American Railway Association.

Sewage. Report of special committee to investigate question of sewage disposal plant for Trenton, N. J., 1909.

Stallions. Stallion legislation in United

States. (Farmers' bulletin, 425, United States Department of Agriculture.)

Stocks and Bonds. The Delaware and Hudson R. R. Co., in response to a request from the United States Securities Commission, sent a reply which was prepared by W. H. Williams, vice president, on issuance of stocks and bonds of American railways. Issued in pamphlet form by the company. New York, 1911. 64 pages.

Street Railways—Cars—Crowding. Prevention of overcrowded street cars (foreign cities). (In United States daily consular and trade reports, No. 7, page 97-102, January 10, 1911.)

Street Railways—Cars—Heating and Ventilation. Street car heating and ventilation. (In Civic bulletin (St. Louis), v. 1, No. 3, January 9, 1911.)

Strikes and Lockouts. Report on the labor laws and labor conditions of foreign countries in relation to strikes and lockouts, by Harry Weinstock, special labor commissioner, Sacramento, 1910. 157 pp. This report is the product of personal investigation made by Mr. Weinstock in Italy, Russia, Austria, Germany, Belgium, France, England, Victoria and New South Wales and New Zealand.

Taxation—Appraisalment. The Somers unit system of appraisalment is the subject of a special report to the Merchants and Manufacturers' Association of Milwaukee, 1911. 28 pages.

Taxation—The Kentucky law. (Acts of 1906, pages 88-218, Art. 3) which provided for the forfeiture of lands to the state for failure to list for taxation was upheld in the United States Supreme Court, January 3, 1911, in *Kentucky Union Co. vs. Kentucky*, 31 S. C. R. 171. Does not deny due process of law nor equal protection of the law; is not ex post facto.

Taxation—Illinois. The special tax commission of Illinois has made some valuable reports on the subject. The report by Prof. John A. Fairlie on the taxation and revenue system of Illinois is an exhaustive study giving in addition a summary of the laws of the states on various phases of taxation. Springfield, 1911, 255 pages. A compilation of the laws of Illinois with annotations has also been issued by the commission.

Taxation and Corporations. The Pennsylvania commission to report on the revenue and corporation laws of the state, has made a report covering all phases of these laws. Harrisburg, 1911. 244 pages.

Telegraph Messages. A law of Michigan, Acts of 1893, No. 195, making telegraph companies liable for failure to deliver messages, was upheld as to interstate messages, by the United States Supreme Court, in *Western Union Tel. Co. vs. Commercial Milling Co.*, 31 S. C. R. 59, decided November

28, 1910. Does not interfere with interstate commerce nor deny equal protection of the law.

Telephone. A sub-committee of the Chicago council committee on gas, oil and electric light, recently reported on its investigation of the Chicago Telephone Company. December, 1910, 53 pages. This investigation related to the cost of supplying the service and the reasonableness of the rates, and covered all elements affecting rates.

Telephone and Telegraph. Compilation of statutes relating to incorporation, regulation, supervision and taxation of telegraph and telephone companies, 1910. New York (state) joint committee on telegraph and telephone companies.

Tuberculin Test. A special commission in Illinois reported to the legislature this year on the tuberculin test for cattle. This report is a valuable summary of this question which is so important to sanitation and health in all states. The report gives much space to opinions of authorities. Springfield, 1911, 79 pages.

United States Senators. Popular election of United States Senators is the title of a digest issued by the secretary of the Governors' conference, 172 West Eighty-first street, New York City. This gives a digest of data on the plan and a summary of the resolutions, with dates of adoption by state legislatures. Bulletin No. 1, 7 pages.

—————. The Ohio legislative reference department issued a 15-page summary on the subject of election of United States senators by the people. Columbus, 1911. Contains a few select references to articles, books and bibliographies.

Water rates. Water rates in fifty cities. (In City Hall, October, 1910.)

Water Supply. Water supply of foreign cities. (In United States daily consular and trade reports, No. 6, pages 81-37, January 9, 1911.)

Whiskey. A pamphlet issued by Hiram Walker and Sons, Ltd., Walkerville, Ont., entitled "A Plot Against the People," is a discussion of the whiskey controversy which has been pending in United States government circles. The booklet is directed against the stand taken by Dr. H. W. Wiley. 1911. 116 pages.

White Slave Traffic. Memorandum in re white slave trade to house committee on interstate and foreign commerce.

Workmen's Compensation. A little Pamphlet issued by the Manufacturers Bureau of Indiana, entitled "Workmen's Compensation or Employers' Liability," discusses the two phases embodied in bills before the general assembly, Indianapolis, 1911, 15 pages.

—————. The cost of employers' liability and workmen's compensation is treated

in a special article by M. M. Dawson in the bulletin of the United States Bureau of Labor, No. 90, September, 1910. 83 pages. Statistics are given as a result of investigation in Europe and the United States. This bulletin contains also a summary of recent work on the subject in United States and Europe and a summary of foreign workmen's compensation acts.

—————. The Ohio legislative reference department recently published in full as a bulletin, an address by J. H. Boyd on this subject. The article is replete with statistical information and legal discussions. Columbus, 1910. 49 pages.

—————. The proceedings of the Chicago conference of state commissions on this subject have been published by A. T. Saunders, secretary, Chilton, Mass., 362 pages, price, paper, \$1. This conference was attended by representatives of the state commissions of Illinois, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Montana, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Washington, Wisconsin and the United States government commission.

—————. The Washington commission on industrial accidents was among the first of the state commissions to report. Their report includes a proposed bill and judicial references. Olympia, 1911, 48 pages.

THE AMERICAN YEAR BOOK.

The first issue of the newly projected American Year Book appeared early in 1911 from the D. Appleton Company, under the editorship of S. N. D. North, under the direction of a supervising board representing national learned societies. This book is a record of events and progress in this country.

The table of contents is given here to indicate fully the broad scope of the work. Under the main titles, comparative statistics, history and law, government and administration, functions of government, economic and social questions, industries and occupations, science and engineering, the humanities, and current record, is given carefully prepared information on

- International statistics.
- National statistics
- History
- International relations
- Law and jurisprudence
- Popular government and current politics.
- The national administration
- State and county governments, including dependencies
- Municipal government
- Foreign governments and dependencies
- Public resources and public works
- Public finance, banking and insurance
- Military and naval
- Economic conditions and the conduct of business

Social economy and social questions
 Labor and labor legislation
 Prevention, correction and charity
 Agriculture and forestry
 Mining and metallurgy
 Manufactures
 Trade, transportation and communication
 Mathematics and astronomy
 Geology, meteorology, terrestrial magnetism and geography
 Chemistry and physics
 Botany, botany and zoology
 Anthropology, ethnology and sociology
 Psychology and philosophy
 Medicine and hygiene
 Engineering
 Religion and religious organizations
 Art and archaeology
 Literature and language
 Education and educational institutions
 Societies and international congresses
 Chronology and necrology.

In the preface the editors state "In some subjects, as political history, the thing most noticeable is the annual group of occurrences—deaths, accidents, bills, speeches, legal decisions and the like. In other subjects, as, for example, chemistry of engineering, the striking thing is progress, set forth not so much in incidents or by dates as in the increase of knowledge and a consequent slow alteration of the point of view. The effort to measure and set down the annual advance in such subjects is a novelty in general handbooks, and the supervisory board hopes that it will not only be valuable to the specialist, who will find here a summary of things with which he is acquainted through his own special journals, handbooks, and publications, but that it will offer a handy means of noting what men are doing in other fields."

BIBLIOGRAPHIES, DIGESTS AND TABLES.

The American Year Book is rich in short bibliographies on the subjects which are discussed. It is needless to say that the references given, while not exhaustive, are the best on the subjects.

Constitutions—Referendum. Dodd's Revision and Amendment of state constitutions, (Johns Hopkins Press, 1910, \$2) contains a table of amendments referred to the people in each of the states, with the vote on each, the total vote cast at the election, and per cent of total vote cast on amendment. This book is an exhaustive treatment of the facts of all revisions and amendments of state constitutions.

Criminal Law and Criminology. The Gary Library of law, Northwestern University, issued in 1909, a preliminary bibliography of modern criminal law and criminology, pre-

pared by John H. Wigmore, Chicago, 128 pages. This bibliography gives a list of treatises and articles; serial publications on criminal law and criminology in the leading countries; government publications; list of congresses, societies and institutions, and their publications.

Jewelry and Silversmithing. The Providence Public Library issued in January, 1911, a fourteen-page bibliography of books for workmen, on jewelry and silversmithing. The books are classified under the following headings: Gold and silver metallurgy, electroplating, practical enameling and coloring, engraving, chasing and die sinking, jewelry and silver work in general, scroll work, plant and animal form, modeling and plaster work, designs for silverware and jewelry, magazines, etc., useful for jewelry and silver work.

Grade Crossings. The library of the public service commission, New York City, has issued a mimeographed bibliography of 12 pages on this subject. This is a very useful list upon a hitherto poorly covered field of Mining—Coal. Bulletin No. 90, United States Department of Labor, September, 1910, contains a bibliography of three pages of fatal accidents in coal mining.

State Government and History. The American Year Book gives a six-page bibliography of the principal books and reports on the government and history of each of the states and territories, and on our constitutional systems. This is a most useful and convenient list of important works.

Suffrage—Qualifications. A tabular digest of the qualifications for voters in all the states is given in Stephenson's Race Distinctions in American Law, 1910, pages 322-339. A table is also given showing the constitutional provisions of all the states historically.

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